

June 30 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

I just leave you with this thought: In the United States today, there is one State only, Hawaii, that has no majority race. Within 3 to 5 years, our largest State, California, will have no majority race. Today, we have 5 school districts with over 100 different racial and ethnic groups represented among the student bodies—5 school districts. Within 2 years, we'll have 12, maybe 15. And within 30 years, there will be no majority race in the United States. We had better start thinking about how we are going to make sure that what we always said, which is that America is a place of ideas and ideals, not a place where there is a dominant race, a dominant class, a dominant in-crowd—we better make sure that's true.

And so I leave you with this. The people of Boston and Massachusetts have embraced the vision that I have painted for the future more vigorously, more consistently, more ardently than any other place in the United States. I ask you to stay with it. Because if you imagine what the future is going to be and how we

would make it, it is clear that if we succeed in becoming the world's first truly multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious democracy, we will be better positioned in the 21st century even than we are now to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity and to give our children a better future than any generation has ever known.

That's what I'm dedicated to. We've got 3½ more years to work for it, and your presence here today has dramatically increased the chances that we will succeed.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Copley Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston; Steve Grossman, national chair, and Alan D. Solomont, national finance chair, Democratic National Committee; Michael Dukakis, former Governor of Massachusetts, and his wife, Kitty; and Joan Menard, Massachusetts State Democratic chair.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Most-Favored-Nation Status for Russia June 30, 1997

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

On September 21, 1994, I determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action allowed for the continuation of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Russia and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the

emigration laws and policies of the Russian Federation. You will find that the report indicates continued Russian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

## Remarks at the St. James Theatre in New York City June 30, 1997

I deserve that for that macarena stunt. [Laughter] Thank you, Whoopi. Thank you, cast. Thank you, Maestro. Thank you, orchestra.

You know, the theater is normally dark on Monday night. I think we can certify that this was most certainly not dark tonight, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I

thank all those who are here with our Democratic Party. And thank you all for coming tonight.

Someone told me that the last time anything like this was done on Broadway was for President Eisenhower in 1955. All I can say is, the others don't know what they missed. You have brightened all of our days. And I think you have pretty much made it a certainty that tomorrow will not be a tragedy.

Thank you. God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:53 p.m. following a performance of the play "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." In his remarks, he referred to actress Whoopi Goldberg, who starred in the play. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner in New York City June 30, 1997

Thank you very much. Well, you heard Lauren say that Al Gore is the most influential Vice President in history—I let him have all the jokes. *[Laughter]*

I do want to thank my good friend Peter Duchin and his orchestra for being here tonight. And I want to thank Mr. Billy Porter for that wonderful song he sang, and thank you, Denise Rich, for writing the song—it was wonderful—and the group, you were all great. Thank you. You're going to hear a lot more from that young fellow, I predict. If I could sing like that, I'd be in a different line of work. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Wynton Marsalis, who has always been there for us, repeatedly. We were having a discussion around the dinner table tonight about Wynton Marsalis, a man I admire enormously. And I said, I believe that he is the only musician in the world who is the best at what he does in both classical and jazz music. And then someone pointed out that Yo Yo Ma, with the "Appalachian Suite," had come pretty close. And he's helped us, too. So I don't care; you can take your choice. *[Laughter]* But he's a magnificent man. And thank you, Lauren Bacall, for being who you are and for being there for us for all these years. Thank you.

Thanks for being here. You know, one of my immutable laws of politics is that no one should ever have to listen to a speech after 11 o'clock at night. And I'm not running again, anyway; therefore, I will let you out by midnight. *[Laughter]* I'll be very brief.

I want you to remember the last thing the Vice President said. You have helped bring your country to this point through your support, and

you are helping us to continue to take it in the direction that it is now headed, which is very different from 5 years ago.

I am so grateful to have had the chance to serve as President. I'm grateful especially to the people of New York, who gave us right at 60 percent of the vote in the last election and a huge plurality of well over 1.7 million votes, about 25 percent of our total—just under 25 percent of our total national plurality came from the generosity of the people of New York State, and I will never forget that. Judith Hope, our State Democratic chair, told me that we carried President Roosevelt's home county, which is apparently something that never happened when he was here. *[Laughter]* That's just because they didn't know me as well, and I thank them for that. *[Laughter]*

Let me say to you, when you go home tonight and you get up tomorrow and you think about why you do all this, I think the most useful question you can ask yourself is, what would you like your country to look like in 30 years? What would you like your country to look like when your children or your grandchildren are your age? That's a question I try to force myself to ask and answer every single day I do this job.

And it may sound trite now because I've said it so many times, but I don't have any better definition of that answer than I did when I started, more than 6 years ago now: I want my country to be a place where the American dream is alive for everybody who is responsible enough to work for it. I want our country to